

A Note on Tichý's Paper 'On Describing'

P. Tichý finished, and probably also began to write, this paper in 1973. At that time, he was affiliated at the University of Otago, New Zealand, for already three years. From there he sent the paper to Pavel Materna and me. The paper 'On Describing' is connected to, in its content, Tichý's paper 'An Approach to Intensional Analysis' which appeared in *Noûs* 5, 1971, 273 – 297. The former paper was intended by Tichý to make the public familiar with some ideas published in the technically more demanding *Noûs* paper. In so doing, he pays particular attention to prospects his conceptual apparatus has for solutions of certain philosophical problems. In the second half of the paper, he utilizes a slightly modified language of Church's theory of types (enriched with possible world variables) that Tichý had introduced already in the paper 'An Approach to Intensional Analysis'. The study 'On Describing' is an excellent introduction into Tichý's work, in particular his semantics. Fundamental intuitive ideas involved in the paper go throughout, in modified forms, all his work.

From 1974 till 1976 Tichý worked on a monumental monograph devoted to construction of an atemporal system of intensional logic, *Introduction to Intensional Logic* (it consists of more than 700 typed pages); the modified language of Church's theory of types undergone another change in it: Tichý added, to Church's one-place functions, n -place functions and to total functions also partial ones. The paper 'On Describing', viewed from a certain aspect, closes the first period of Tichý's views on questions of intensional logic; the second period is opened by the aforementioned monograph *Introduction to Intensional Logic* which did not appear because of a lack of understanding and slowness of a certain Dutch publishing house; only its informal introductory chapter, 'Individuals and Their Roles', was published so far (see *Pavel Tichý's Collected Papers in Logic and Philosophy*, V. Svoboda – B. Jespersen – C. Cheyne (eds.), Prague: Filosofia, Dunedin: University of Otago Press, 711 – 748). The German translation of the chapter appeared already in 1987 (*Zeitschrift für Semiotik* 9, 13 – 50) and the Slovak translation was published in 1994 in *Organon F* 1, Nos. 1 – 4, 29 – 42, 123 – 132, 208 – 224, 328 – 333. Tichý wrote this chapter in 1974, i.e., soon after finishing the paper 'On Describing'. Both papers overlap and supplement each other to a certain degree, though the introduction to the monograph is more philosophical

and intuitive. It can be recommended as a perfect complement to the study 'On Describing', although it belongs to the second period of the development of Tichý's logic and semantics.

In the third period (from 1978 till 1984, approximately), Tichý introduced into his logic temporal variables and, in a number of papers, fixed his attention on development of a type-theoretic system of temporal intensional logic and semantics and their applications.

The last period, beginning in the midst of 1980s and culminating in the monograph *The Foundations of Frege's Logic* (1988), Tichý abandons a tight framework of the simple theory of types and finds a final form of his logic in the system of hyperintensional logic based on a ramified theory of types.

Tichý did not publish the paper 'On Describing'. We may only guess that one of the reasons was that most ideas involved in it found their place in the monograph *Introduction to Intensional Logic* and in the language he considered more suitable and intuitive than the formal language utilized in his *Noûs* paper. In spite of this, there is no doubt that the paper 'On Describing' deserves publishing; for it not only offers a refined analysis of some philosophical problems but also illustrates the final stage of the first period in which Tichý developed his views on intensional logic and semantics. Together with other works, it shows remarkable continuity of his intellectual development.

And finally, I would like to express, in the name of the Editorial Board, our gratitude to Veronika Tichý for approval of publishing her father's paper. I would like to thank also to B. Geistová Čakovská for re-typing the paper, to M. Duží, P. Materna, J. Raclavský and M. Zouhar for reading the whole text and eliminating slight drawbacks that appeared during typing and re-typing the paper. There are no emendations in Tichý's text concerning content and style.

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